

Remarks

Claims 1-6, 9, 11-16, 18-22, 25, and 27-29 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 9, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 25, 28, and 29 have been amended in various particulars as indicated hereinabove. Claims 7, 8, 10, 17, 23, 24, and 26 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 23, 24, 26 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. These claims are now cancelled or dependencies changed to address the rejection.

Claims 1-15 and 23-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The claims have been amended to describe the contact areas being electrically insulated from the at least one floating area yet capacitively coupled to at least one of said at least one floating area. This should address the basis for the concern.

Claims 1-4, 6, 9, 13-22, 25, 27 and 29 in so far as understood were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Gu US 6,229,192 (Gu). In a related rejection, claims 5 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gu US 6,229,192 (Gu).

These rejections are respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

The subject matter of claim 10 has been included in claim 1. Thus, claim 1 should be deemed to patentably distinguish over the applied reference.

In a somewhat similar vein, each of the method claims describes that during read out, charge carriers are transferred from the charge-storage area(s) to the readout node(s). No similar method is described in the applied reference.

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Thus the rejection should be withdrawn.

It is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. Should any questions arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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